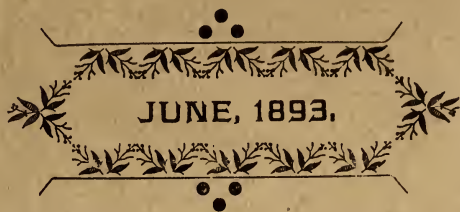


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Prayer Meeting, (Wednesday), . . . 7:30 P. M.

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Grace Church Visitor.

*A Monthly Magazine Devoted to Christian Nurture and Fellowship,
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VOL. V.

JUNE, 1893.

No. 6.

"To The Spiritual Children of Grace Church."

REV. J. P. LLOYD.

DEAR YOUNG FRIENDS—I continue to speak to you as "young friends," though bearing in mind that not all of you are still in the years of mere childhood. Yet it is true of you all, that, since your parents could say, as, no doubt, they did gladly say, "Unto us a child is born," more years passed away, than the years that have passed since they could say, "Our child is born again."

To be borne again, is, for a human being, to enter upon a life of endless *existence*; to be "born again," is for that being to have entered upon a life of endless *bliss*. In your natural birth there was fulfilled in your experience the words of our Redeemer to Nicodemus, "That which is born of the flesh is flesh;" while by the *second* or new birth you have the more wonderful words fulfilled, "That which is born of the spirit is spirit."

Nicodemus was a ruler of the Jews, and a Pharisee, sincerely zealous for the Law of Moses, yet withall, a friend of Jesus. Yet he could not understand this teaching of the Saviour, and he asked in amazement at the whole idea of the new birth, "How can these things be?" And there are many, both in and out of the Church, who are no less in darkness here. Even religious teachers are asking often, and not in the spirit of inquiry but of *doubt*, like Nicodemus, "How can a man be born when he is old?"—"be born a second time?" But whosoever, either in ignorance or scorn, may stumble at it, Jesus teaches the doc-

trine, and he answers these objections by simply telling them, in substance though, it is a mystery to you, yet so is the wind a mystery. But, "Verily, verily I say unto you, except a man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." He cannot see it any more than he can see the wind.

But, ye who are presented on the church record, as "Spiritual children of Grace Church," have been taught the doctrine from the pages of God's word, and the teachings of your Catechism, illustrating and expounding the inspired word. Though in your Catechism formally announced, under the caption, "New Birth, or Regeneration," it is presented as that work of the Holy Spirit by which we are "convinced of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment." He takes "of the things that are Christ's, and shows them unto us," and "by His Holy Spirit he assures us of eternal life," "For the spirit itself beareth witness with our spirits that we are the children of God," "And He makes us sincerely willing and ready to live unto God." And Paul tells us, and as speaking by the spirit, "As many as are led by the spirit of God, they are the sons of God." "Born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." That spirit itself witnessing with our spirits that we are the children of God. Surely this is making them children, "Spiritual Children." And you are, all of you of whom these things are true, properly recorded among the members of Grace Church as "Spiritual Children," whether young or old.

But to these "dear young friends," to whom I thus write, if this great change

has come upon you—a change both of *character* and *condition*—and making you “New creatures in Christ Jesus,” then with holy ones of old you can take up the language of the beautiful Psalm, and sing with holy joy:

When God revealed His gracious name,
And changed my wonderful state,
The rapture seemed a pleasing dream;
The grace appeared so great.

The world beheld the glorious change,
And did thy hand confess,
My tongue broke out in unknown strains
And sung, “Surprising grace!”

“Great is the work;” my neighbor cried,
And owned thy power divine:
“Great is the work,” my heart replied;
And be the glory thine.

But, I cannot banish from my mind, as I now write, what I was permitted to see and, by the Christian courtesy of your esteemed pastor, to participate in, at the services of Easter Sunday in Grace church.

Speaking only in “words of truth and soberness,” I can say: I saw before me a crowded assembly, and the marked and serious attention of all, declared the interest, apparently, of each, in the scene before them. Here, I saw a father and mother, with their sons and daughters, in young manhood and womanhood, standing together to profess their faith in Christ; and to “join themselves to the Lord in an everlasting covenant.” There I saw young husbands and wives receiving baptism and confirmation, thus taking their place among the disciples of our crucified Saviour.

And, as those young husbands, and other young men with them, knelt down in that public assembly, and, upon their knees received the water of baptism and the hand of confirmation. I felt that their act, and attitude, of humility before their Lord reflected upon themselves high honor; and showed that they had added “unto their faith virtue,” even the virtue of noble “courage.” And when those wives with their husbands, and those younger women with their brothers, and all with marked seriousness, and even with tears, made their vows unto the Lord seemed to act, in thus taking the sacramental cup as if hearing the Crucified One say *to them*, “This do in remembrance of me.”

And, considering the whole scene, I was ready to ask, Have these parents, like Noah heard the voice of God saying to them, “Come thou and all thy house

into the ark.” And when they had thus in grateful obedience entered in did we not hear the moving of that closing door, as “The Lord shut them in?” And as “the Lord remembered Noah, and every living thing that was with him in the Ark,” will he so remember all these that have come today unto “Mount Zion,” and unto the city of the “living God,” the “Heavenly Jerusalem” and to the General Assembly and Church of the First Born. That “Ark” which Christ himself did build, by the toils of his whole life on earth. And as it was almost completed, and his work almost done, one night spent the whole of it alone in the mountain, at his work. And, another night he toiled, says one, “in the same work, until his sweat became great drops of blood, falling down to the ground.” As the last nails were driven into it, they were driven by enemies of both God and his Christ, and were driven through his own hands and feet. And soon, with a loud voice—a voice that was heard on earth and reached up to Heaven and echoed even to the dark world through all the kingdom of Satan. It was the cry “it is finished.” But with that cry he bowed his head and gave up the Ghost. Soon after he, in the sight of his wondering, sorrowing, but faithful disciples went up to Heaven. But one has said and thousands of thousands will continue to say “Amen! but blessed be God. He *left his Ark* open.”

Into this Ark did not all these fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters, with whom you rejoiced on Easter Sunday, enter? If, as we all *trust and hope*, they are “Spiritual Children” indeed, then they did enter in and if so, “God has shut them in.” And God will remember them, till he calls them out under “the new Heavens and into the new Earth.”

(CONTIUED.)

JUNE 1st the pastor entered upon the sixth year of his pastorate with Grace Church. During the past five years two hundred and nine persons have been received into membership with the church. The pastor feels that the great work of the church at the present is the building of our auditorium, but let us not forget the building of our spiritual edifice.

Briefs of General Synods—Proceedings at Reading, Pa.

THE SYNODS OPENING.

The death of Dr. Bomberger, President of the last General Synod, left it in the hands of the Vice-President to open the Synod. Rev. Dr. J. S. Kieffer conducted the opening services and Rev. Dr. Rutenick, of Cleveland, Ohio, preached the sermon. The Roll Call showed a large attendance of delegates. Rev. Dr. Thos. G. Apple, Lancaster, Pa., was chosen President. Under his guidance the Synod moved along orderly in its work. Revs. Dr. Sechler, of Philadelphia, and Marcus Bachman, of Baltimore, were chosen Vice-Presidents. Rev. T. F. Hoffmeier, Cor. Sec. Rev. Dr. Reiter, who was elected Stated Clerk when the General Synod was organized, continues to fill the position.

THE CHAIR

Which the President occupied bore on the top cross-piece, in gilt letters, the date, 1740. The chair was a large substantial arm-chair, painted in black, with gilt decorations. Originally it was made for and used by Rev. Michael Schlatter, the pioneer Missionary and organizer of the Reformed Church in the U. S. It is now owned by Hon. R. F. Kelker, of Harrisburg, Pa., himself an old landmark of the Church. This old relic is highly prized by the owner, and the Synod very much appreciated the kindness of Elder Kelker in granting the use of the chair during the session of the Synod.

HOME MISSIONS.

Number of missions, 136; congregations in the missions, 183; communicant members, 12,841; Sunday schools, 157; scholars, teachers and officers, 15,749; amount raised by the missions for benevolence, \$27,116; amount raised by the missions for congregational use, \$233,946, amount received by the board from the Church at large for home missions, \$124,921; amount received by the board for church building, \$24,872. The Ohio Synod has 12 missions; Pittsburg, 10; Synod of the Interior, 23; Potomac, 20, and Eastern, 20. \$40,000 have been expended during the year. Three legacies have been received for this work, which are added to those already received.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Receipts and expenditures for past three years: Cash received from all sources, \$71,260.09; proceeds of notes discounted, \$188,342.68; balance, \$2,119.99; total, \$261,722.76; amount of cash paid all sources, \$80,371.26; notes redeemed, \$181,351.50; total, \$261,722.76.

WORLD'S FAIR.

Sunday closing resolutions adopted by Synod:

Resolved, That General Synod of the Reformed church in the United States, now assembled in Reading, deeply regrets to learn that the authorities of Columbian exposition, at Chicago, have determined to open the gates of the World's fair on the Lord's day.

Resolved, That we protest against this action as a violation of the Christian sentiment of the American people, and of the Congressional legislation, granting financial aid providing the exposition was kept closed on Sunday.

Resolved, That we heartily approve the action of the U. S. government in its efforts to prevent by legal measures this violation of the law of God and the law of the land.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the attorney general of the U. S.

NO CHANGE IN THE WORDING OF THE REFORMED CREED.

The decision of synod that there shall be no change in the wording of the creed of the denomination has created considerable interest among members and ministers of the Reformed faith. Rev. C. Borchers read a letter proposing that the phrase in the creed, "I believe in the Holy Catholic church," be changed to "I believe in the Holy Universal Christian church." Some one moved that it be laid on the table, while another moved that the change should not be made. Synod finally decided that "it was inexpedient to make any change in the creed."

DAYTON, OHIO

Trinity Reformed church, place of meeting of General Synod in May, 1896.

J. L. HORN and JOHN SHEARER have gone into the general repairing business, etc., and are located at 36 Harrison St. They repair Sewing Machines, Unbrelas, Lawn Mowers, &c. Call and see them.

AFTER the services of the Women's Missionary Society Thursday evening, June 15th, the ladies of the church will serve ice cream and cake at 15 cents a plate. The services of about twenty or more of the young ladies and men of the church will be needed.

Grace Church Visitor

REV. A. K. ZARTMAN, Editor and Publisher.

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THE subscription price of the VISITOR for one year is 25 cents. Persons wishing to subscribe can leave their orders with the pastor.

Meeting of Classis.

The annual Sunday School Convention of St. Joseph Classis convenes in Grace church, Tuesday evening, June 13, and will continue during the day following. Some forty or more delegates will be in attendance at this convention. The programme of exercises is found in another column.

Wednesday evening, June 14th, at 7:30 the president of the Classis, Rev. H. S. Baily, of White Pigeon, Mich., will preach the opening sermon of Classis. The sessions of Classis will continue during Thursday and Friday following. The meetings of Classis will be open to the public, and will be of special interest to members of the church.

Thursday afternoon, June 15th, the Women's Classical Missionary Society will convene and hold its meetings in the west class rooms of the chapel. There will be a large attendance at these meetings of the Missionary Society. Thursday evening the ladies will hold a public service in the church, and render an excellent programme. The members and friends of the church should arrange to attend as many of these meetings as possible.

Tenth Anniversary.

Grace church celebrated its tenth anniversary Whit-Sunday, May 21st. The attendance at the service was large and much interest manifested. The pastor gave a brief history of the organization and growth of the church during its ten years of existence. Also spoke briefly of the outlook of the church for the future. The congregation has now a membership of nearly 250. With this membership and the prospect of having the church auditorium built in the near future, the congregation should now be able to do very effectual work. Five persons were received into the church at the anniversary service, others will unite very shortly. Every member of the church should be at work. Many of the members have been very helpful to the pastor within the last several months in looking up families, and prevailing upon them to make their church home with us. The building prospect is just at present the great work of the church. To carry this enterprise to a successful end, will require united and earnest effort. Every member must do his utmost. Will we now build our Auditorium or will we not? The members of the church will answer this question by the subscriptions to the church and by their efforts.

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CHARLES GUMPPER.....	Secretary.
MRS. CHARLES GUMPPER.....	Treasurer.
EUGENE MATHIS.....	Librarian

Bible School Hour: Sabbath Morning 9:30.

OFFERINGS in the Bible School for the month of May:

May 7.....	\$ 5.39
" 14.....	3.91
" 21.....	4.18
" 28.....	3.62

Total.....\$17.10

Birthday Collections.....\$.33

Total.....\$.33

Class giving the largest amount on each Sabbath: May 7—Class, Miss French, teacher, amount \$1.21; May 14—Class Miss Mast, teacher, amount 80c; May 21—Class, Mr. Connett, teacher, amount \$1.26; May 28—Class, Miss Mast, teacher, amount 57c.

SOME afternoon during the meeting of Classis the delegates will be taken on an excursion to the Orphans' Home.

D. W. SOUDER attended the meeting of the General Synod at Reading, Pa. After the adjournment of Synod he made a trip through some of the eastern States.

THE Mid-Summer Communion Service will be held July 2nd. Let our people remember the date. At this service an opportunity will be afforded to applicants to be received into the church.

THE plans and details for the auditorium will soon be completed. Mr. Chapman, the architect, was in the city recently and took measurements of the lecture rooms, &c. He was very much pleased with our location, and assures us that we will have a very fine church.

MR. KIFER, of Kansas City, an uncle of Jacob Rudisil has been visiting friends in the city and this part of the State. Mr. Kifer is a delegate to General Synod and is on his way home. The pastor was much delighted to meet this staunch old Reformed Elder.

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MONTHLY MEETINGS.

First Thursday of each month, 2:30 P. M.

Women's Missionary Society.

Order of exercises for the public service to be held Thursday evening, June 15th.

Opening Chant.

Invocation, - - Rev. J. S. Keppel.
 Hymn.

Scripture Reading, - Mrs. Rev. Souder.

Prayer, - - - Rev. J. W. Barber.

Voluntary, - - - - - Choir.

Address and Words of Welcome—"The World-Wide Field," Mrs. Charles Gumper.

Address—"Darkness Reveals the Stars,"

Mrs. J. H. Albright.

Solo, - - - - Mrs. Ashbaucher.

Address—"Japan," Mrs. L. B. Clayton.

Address—"Three Important Needs to Efficient Missionary Work," Mrs. I. Rothenberger.

Hymn.

Address—Subject to be selected, Miss Jennie Harnish.

Address—Subject to be selected, Miss Ida Mast.

Offerings.

Doxology and Benediction.

THE following applicants were received into the church on anniversary day: Mr. and Mrs. Libbing, Mrs. Ed. Miller, Mr. Frederick Kline, Mr. John Wirts. Have you given these new members the right hand of fellowship, and made them feel that they are more than welcome among us?

AT the coming meeting of Classis we shall have the pleasure of having with us a number of pastors who have located among us during the past year. Rev. Alpheus Iden, Denver, Ind.; Rev. G. H. Souder, Bluffton, Ind.; Rev. J. S. Keppel, Athens, Mich.; Rev. J. H. Albright, Hudson, Ind.; Rev. B. B. Royer, Goshen, Ind.

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 Weekly Prayer Meeting, Sabbath Evening, 8:45 P. M.

Prayer Meeting Topics and
 Leaders.

June 11. Our Young Lives for
 Christ. Eccl. 12:1; 2 Tim. 3:15; 1 Tim.
 4:15. F. D. Paulus.

June 18. Missionary Meeting. Mal.
 3:1-12. Maude Traxler.

June 25. Praise and Consecration
 Service. 2. Chron. 29:25-36. Etta
 Souder.

July 2. God's Call to Us. Acts 16:
 10; 2 Tim. 9-13. John Vordermark.

July 9. How to Meet Trouble. Acts
 16; 23-25; Cor. 7; 3-7. Lizzie Rudisil.

A NEW feature has been introduced
 into our Sunday School services, the
 roll call of officers and teachers imme-
 diately after the singing of the first hymn.
 Officers and teachers not present at roll
 call will be reported tardy by the sec'y.

THE Endeavorers should without fail at-
 tend the sessions of the coming Sunday
 School Convention, and especially on
 Tuesday evening, June 13. Rev. Roth-
 enberger, of Plymouth, will tell the
 young people how they may aid the Sun-
 day School.

THE Young People's Social held Thurs-
 day evening, June 8th, was a most de-
 lightful occasion. The "Blue Tassel
 Club" did itself full justice. Miss Ida
 Romy surprised the audience with her
 violin solos. She takes great interest in
 her music, and will make a fine player.

THE Salem Reformed Church of this
 city will celebrate its twenty-fifth anni-
 versary June 18. Rev. C. F. Kriete, who
 for years was the beloved pastor of this
 church will be present at these services.
 The pastor and members of Grace
 Church have been invited to participate
 in the services.

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Sunday School Convention.

The Sunday School Convention of St. Joseph Classis convenes in annual session in Grace church June 13th and 14th. Here is the programme of exercises.

TUESDAY EVENING.

- 7:30. Devotional Service.
 8:00. Address—"What Shall be the Standard of Successful Sunday School Work?" Rev. G. H. Souder, Bluffton, Ind.
 8:20. Address—"How can the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor Aid the Sunday School?" Rev. I. Rothenberger, Plymouth, Ind.
 8:40. Organization of Covention.
 WEDNESDAY FORENOON.
 9:00. Devotional Service.
 9:30. Address—"The Superintendant."
 (a) "His Qualifications." Rev. J. W. Barber, Marmont, Ind.
 (b) "His Duties." Rev. J. H. Albright, Hudson, Ind.
 10:00. General Discussion.
 10:15. Address—"What is Essential to Freshness and Impressiveness in Class Teaching?" B. B. Royer, Goshen, Ind., Rev. J. M. Kessler, Mulberry, Ind.
 10:30. General Discussion.
 10:45. Reports from Sunday Schools.
 11:30. Adjournment.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON.

- 2:00. Devotional Service.
 2:15. Address—"Sunday School Management and Attractions." Rev. A. B. Stoner, Fulton, Mich., Benj. Ashbaucher, Bluffton, Ind.
 2:35. General Discussion.
 2:45. Address—"The Primary Sower." Rev. L. B. Clayton, Pulaski, O., Rev. F. Ware, Three Rivers, Mich.
 3:00. General Discussion.
 3:10. Open Parliament. The worker's half hour. Conducted by Rev. H. S. Bailey, White Pigeon, Mich.
 3:40. Question Drawer.
 4:00. Reports of Committees and Miscellaneous Business.
 4:30. Adjournment.

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